

YELLOWSTONE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS: Carbon, Custer, Dawson, Park, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Yellowstone, McKenzie County North Dakota, RAC Chairman

Meeting Minutes -- July 12, 2007

MSU-Billings College of Business – Room 163

Members Present: Don Youngbauer, Rosebud CD; Paul Gilbert, Sweet Grass CD; Phil Fox, Treasure CD; Bob Hector, Yellowstone CD; Steve Story, Stillwater CD; Luther Waterland, MACD; Walter Borntrager, Dawson CD; Lynn Haidle, Prairie CD; Tony Barone, Richland CD; John Moorhouse, RAC Chairman, and Orvin Finsaas, McKenzie ND, CD.

Others Present: Warren Kellogg, NRCS/TAC; Laurie Zeller, DNRC; Jim Robinson, DNRC/TAC; Greg Johnson, ACOE; Liz Ching, Baucus Office, Jennifer Madgic, Tester Office; Ray Beck, DNRC; Brent Esplin, BOR; Karin Boyd, TAC; Bill Jones, YCSO; Gary Campbell BOR; Sarah Carlson, MACD; Buzz Mattelin, MACD; Jim Beck, MRCDC; Ken Frazer, MT; Nicole McClain, YRCDC Coordinator; Clair Johnson, Billings Gazette; Bill Jones, YCSO; LaVerne Ivie, Yellowstone CD; Laurie Kelley, Rosebud CD; Bobbi Vannattan, Rosebud CD; Jacquie Nequette, Park CD; Kelly Norwood, Project Assistant, and Carol Watts, Custer CD Administrator.

ACOE present at river tour: BG Gregg Martin, Maj Dwayne Smith, Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr, Col Roger Wilson, Bill Mulligan, Des Goyal, Erik Blechinger, Larry Cieslik, Col David Press, and Joel Ames

Chairman Don Youngbauer called the meeting to order at 10:05 am on Thursday, July 12, 2007. Introductions followed.

TAC Update: Warren had hard copies of the draft Intake Diversion position paper. There were two small additions to the paper, which would show the positive effects of economics to the region. Warren asked the Council members to review the paper and be ready to decide on final version of the position paper at the August meeting. Don Youngbauer noted that the significance of the Intake fish passage proposal is enormous and will call attention to the way that the YRCDC relates to the people on the river.

The City of Glendive requested support s through the ACOE bridge study (Cumulative Effects Study), Warren stated that Jim Robinson and Greg Johnson would be drafting a statement on that subject, which they will send out electronically for review and comment. The Council will discuss the draft in August.

Warren would like to meet with John Moorhouse, Nicole, and a few others to begin formulating an implementation strategy on the Russian olive BMP that was adopted at the June meeting. He expects to have this draft to the Council at the August meeting. It is possible that there will be a demonstration project in the near future.

Greg Johnson reported that the COE team was working with the TAC members on the fisheries scope of work in order to obligate money by the end of September. The LiDAR contract will be let by the end of the month and the areas will be flown in October. It will be important to work with landowners to get permission to be on their land to set up the ground controls. The Senate appropriations report that came out on Monday said that YRCDC is in the budget for \$500,000.00. We are hoping for a positive outcome in the house, and Greg said it would be helpful for the Chairman to be in contact with the legislative representatives.

RAC Update: John Moorhouse gave the RAC update saying that the RAC was very glad that the Council moved on the Russian olive BMP. The RAC is interested in this and also in promoting it to the public. He asked for permission to work with Nicole and Kelly and Warren to put together a dog and pony show for Treasure, Rosebud Counties, and Glendive and include the Russian olive in the presentation.

Coordinator's Report: Nicole brought a mock up of a display to present to the Council. The display was spread over a table and suggestions were made for what kind of layout could be used. A map of the river would be in the background with common interest themes and facts added to it. Many suggestions were made, one of which was to use some of the quotes from Susan Gilbertz's cultural inventory study. An updated version of the display will be brought to the August meeting.

Susan Gilbertz's Cultural Inventory reports have been printed and will be available at the next meeting.

Yellowstone River Clean up: Bob Hector reported that the Yellowstone River cleanup project was going very well. The clean up will start at Coulson Park on Sunday the 22nd with all the crews present. There are two spreadsheets available showing work areas and meals. Any activity should be coordinated with Nicole or Kelly. A press release has been run in the Billings Gazette. Volunteers are welcome and they will need to be at the clean up site by 8:00am. John Moorhouse, on behalf of the Council thanked Bob Hector for his effort on the Yellowstone River Clean-up project.

Chairman's Report: Don Youngbauer did not have a report but he urged the Council to develop an approach to the Russian olive BMP that would attract partners and not enemies.

Yellowstone River Tour: Nicole and the Council thanked Laurie Zeller for producing an excellent program for the river tour. The program explained the YRCDC purposes and showed the sites along the river. The itinerary for the tour is included. LaVerne is the official time keeper for the tour. There was also a special thank you of appreciation to the helpers: Kelly Norwood, Laurie Kelley and Bobbi Vannattan. Nicole went over the time schedule and program for the tour. Each boat will have a TAC person to answer questions.

Don Youngbauer commented that this was an excellent opportunity for the Council to cement their working relationship with the ACOE.

MRRIC Reception and MR/YR CDC Joint meeting: Nicole said that there is a Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee meeting in Billings August 27, 2007. The YRCDC has been asked to co-sponsor the reception that evening with the Missouri River Council, more details will be forthcoming. The tour of Intake is still set for August 29th but there is a possibility of a joint meeting with the Missouri River Council that evening or the next day. The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes will be at the Intake tour and they have invited the YRCDC to continue on with their tour to view the dredge and pump station at Culbertson. There is a plan to host a reception the evening of the 29th at the interpretive Center at the Confluence. Watch your emails for the final plans and dates.

Budget Increase: Ray Beck, DNRC told the Council that the YRCDC was in the budget for the next cycle and if we felt we needed an increase we should be prepared to present that request within the next six months.

Public Comment: There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am. The Yellowstone River Tour began at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Watts, CCCD Administrator